

## **Concept of the BAG Girls Politics inc. (BAG Mädchenpolitik e.V.)**

The Federal Working Committee of the Girls Politics inc. (BAG Girls Politic) is a nation-wide politically specialised association. The BAG Girls Politics inc. was found on the 9<sup>th</sup> of November 1999 in Dresden.

The BAG Girls Politics inc. understands its conception as a base and a common agreement on their aims, tasks, and their self-conception.

### **Girls Work and Girls Politics**

Girls Work is work with and for girls and young women. Its subject oriented concepts orient themselves on the situation in life and the needs of their addressees. Its aim is the reduction of gender-related disadvantages as well as the promotion of gender equity and gender equality.

Girls Work supports structures which enable self-determination, acceptance, solidarity as well as sociability, experiences, protection and help. Girls Work provides room for girls and young women in which they can take the possibility to participatory acquire self-development, experimental and learning processes. It offers girls and young women support and company to better handle their concrete life reality and to be capable of acting also in difficult circumstances. It provides room for educational processes and the acquirement of vital social key qualifications.

Girls Work and Girls Politics strategies are based on a feminist analysis of society and are oriented on gender democratic aims. They concentrate on the development of human possibilities and resources and are oriented on user requirements. They are preventive, intervening, and inspiring.

Girls Work and Girls Politics are cross-section tasks and both look at the structural and individual living conditions of female addressees and the structures and concepts of the child and youth welfare services. In view of the increasing differentiation of society in the Federal Republic of Germany Girls Work and Girls Politics are based on the policy of accepting cultural diversity. Against this background they are involved in legal and actual prerequisites so that girls and young women can equally participate in all offers of the child and youth welfare services. This is particularly valid for the reduction of social disparity, which is based on migration, regional disparities and gender. Experiences so far show that necessary analysis must be holistic so that geographical, political, social spatial and socioeconomical, cultural, spiritual and individual contexts will be considered.

Girls Work and Girls Politics change social power structures and extend subjective potential of power. They are a means of production of justice and help to lead a life suitable for mankind in freedom, peace, equality and solidarity.

## **Aims of the BAG Girls Politics**

The BAG Girls Politics forms policy in the interest of girls and young women in all fields of child and youth welfare services, school, training and work, culture and environment. It sets departmental political impulses and contributes to a nation-wide embodiment of Girls Work.

The BAG Girls Politics represents girls' political interests at federal level, does lobby work, gives advice to politics and institutions which stand up for girls' work and girls' politics.

The BAG Girls Politics assures the co-operation and networking of its members.

As a panel of female experts it supports the feminist discourse, the professional development and the interdisciplinary networking of theory and practical experience.

Thereby the BAG Girls Politics focuses on different social, cultural, ethnic, religious and individual real life situations, concepts of identity and life drafts of girls and young women and points out the potential of variance. Attention is paid to the different challenges in the newly-formed and the old West German states.

## **Responsibilities of the BAG Girls Politics**

To implement its goals the BAG Girls Politics addresses itself to the following tasks:

- Conceptual advancement of Girls Work in consideration of the current discourse and strategies (e.g. Gender Mainstreaming) by organising study days, topic study groups and technical seminars
- Advancement of Girls' Political networking and exchange of experiences of mutual information and transregional collaborative connections by organising regular general meetings and board meetings
- Departmental political lobby work through the contact with governmental departments, bodies responsible for children and youth welfare services and other relevant organisational structures as well as politics at federal level
- Active membership and participation in committees and initiatives (e.g. the Consortium for youth welfare services (Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Jugendhilfe (AGJ))
- Participation in nation-wide technical seminars, congresses, specialist days by sending female experts, speakers and presenters.
- Reflection and documentation of Girls' Political developments in theory and practical experience by publications and comments, e.g. on the Internet, in information brochures of the BAG as well as professional journals
- Provision of a user-friendly and support oriented service and information portal on the Internet: [www.maedchenpolitik.de](http://www.maedchenpolitik.de)

## **Organisation of the BAG Girls Politics**

The BAG Girls Politics is an incorporated society and follows non-profitable aims.

It is a nation-wide consortium of regional work groups (LAG) of Girls Work and Girls Politics of separate federal states as well as other nation-wide expert consortiums. Invited to cooperate are as well female representatives of such associations and organisations which operate at federal level in the field of Girls Work respectively, represent associations and organisations at federal level which organise or support Girls Work. Also welcome are bodies, which offer feminist activity with girls and young women as well as female experts of Girls Work and feminist research which each are recommended from a regional work group.

The work of the BAG Girls Politics is financed through the membership-fees as well as through single applications so as to take over the costs for specific projects. Offers like conferences, meetings or publications are financed through grant applications at different institutions and programmes and are basically borne by the voluntary work of its female members. At the moment the legal competence of BAG Girls Politics is secured through voluntary work of its members of the board. The establishment of a full-time office is striven for.